General Assembly

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Agenda item 53 (*f*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/422/Add.6)*]

61/203. International Year of Biodiversity, 2010

The General Assembly,

Recalling chapter 15 of Agenda 21[1] on the conservation of biological diversity adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also the Convention on Biological Diversity,[2] which was ratified by one hundred and eighty-eight States and one regional economic integration organization, and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[3]

Recalling the commitment of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and the target to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biodiversity,

Recalling also the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5]

Recalling the need to expedite the implementation of the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Concerned by the continued loss of biological diversity, and acknowledging that an unprecedented effort would be needed to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[3] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

Deeply concerned by the social, economic, environmental and cultural implications of the loss of biodiversity, including negative impacts on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and stressing the necessity to adopt concrete measures in order to reverse it,

Taking note of the reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,[6]

Conscious of the need for effective education to raise public awareness for achieving the threefold objective of the Convention and the 2010 biodiversity target,

1. *Declares* 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity;

2. *Designates* the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as the focal point for the International Year of Biodiversity, and invites the secretariat to cooperate with other relevant United Nations bodies, multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to bringing greater international attention to bear on the issue of the continued loss of biodiversity;

3. *Invites* Member States to consider establishing national committees for the International Year of Biodiversity;

4. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to take advantage of the International Year of Biodiversity to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity by promoting actions at the local, regional and international levels;

5. *Invites* Member States and relevant international organizations to support the activities to be organized by developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition;

6. *Invites* relevant international organizations as well as relevant global and regional environmental conventions to communicate to the focal point for the International Year of Biodiversity efforts made towards the successful implementation of the objective of the Year;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006

[6] Available from http://millenniumassessment.org.